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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 88, no. 2)

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# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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### THE COVER

We thank Allan Claybon for the image of the Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) taken 5 April 2012 at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport in Boone County (see Field Note, p. 56). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## WINTER 2011-2012 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Weather conditions during winter 2011-2012 were overall very mild but relatively close to normal regarding precipitation. Temperatures averaged warmer-than-normal state-wide during all three months. Monthly averages at most recording stations were 3–6°F. above normal, resulting in one of the warmest winters on record. Precipitation was somewhat variable, but generally was close to normal in most areas during December and January, and a bit drier than normal during February. The warm temperatures and lack of any significant precipitation resulted in virtually no significant snow events and only short durations of snow cover.

Rarity highlights were few in number but included Red-necked Grebe, continuing Rufous Hummingbirds, Harris's Sparrow, and Common Redpoll. Additional highlights during the season included mostly lingering summer resident and migrant passerines including White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and two reports of both Vesper Sparrow and Indigo Bunting. As expected based on the general scarcity during the fall season, irruptive boreal species were nearly absent.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

**Abbreviations** – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam, Lyon (unless otherwise noted); Barren = Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren; Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Boatwright WMA, Ballard; Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan; Cecilia, Hardin; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Flemingsburg = city water reservoir at Flemingsburg, Fleming; Grassy Pond/Powells Lake = Grassy Pond/Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson (unless otherwise noted); Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; Jacobson Park, Lexington, Fayette; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, Marshall; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Lake Peewee, Hopkins; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, Jefferson; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Otter Pond, Caldwell; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, Oldham; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Sinclair WMA, Muhlenberg; Spindletop = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, Fayette; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Wolf Creek Dam, Russell.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – reports of interest included ca. 2100 at Sauerheber by 19 December (TY) with peak counts of 3210 there 18 January (TY) and 2450 there and 400 at Grassy Pond/Powells Lake, both 13 February (TY); ca. 500 at Long Point by 10 December (BP, JD)

with a peak count of ca. 4000 there 5 January (*fide* GP); 30 at Otter Pond 24 December (WGr) with 10 still there 28 December (WGr) and ca. 60 there 17 February (JR); 18 along Clear Creek, Hopkins, 31 December (BP); 2300 at Ballard WMA 3 January (*fide* RP) with 2200

still there 9 January (*fide* RP) and 1800 there 25 January (*fide* RP); 30 over Uniontown Dam on the Ohio River, *Union*, 14 January (CC); 750-100 e. of Sauerheber 16 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); 1 at Lake Peewee 17 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); 3 at Flemingsburg 19 February (BW<sub>u</sub>); and ca. 1000 e. of Open Pond, *Fulton*, 26 February (MY, BY).

**Snow Goose** – the mild weather resulted in very modest peak counts that included ca. 3000 at Sauerheber 17 December (CC) and 4600 there 18 January (TY); and 3700 at Ballard WMA 30 January (PHa).

**Ross's Goose** – there were not many reports, all being included: 1 over West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 30 December (KMc); 1 near Union, *Boone*, 31 December (LM); 2 near Pendleton, *Henry*, 1 January (ph. MC); 2 near Needmore, *Ballard*, 2 January (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); 1 at Jonathan Creek 19 January (HC); 3 at Sauerheber 25 January (BL); 10 e. of Sauerheber 16 February (ph. BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); 1 s. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, 23 January (ph. EH<sub>a</sub>); and at least 3 e. of Open Pond, *Fulton*, 26 February (MY, BY).

**Cackling Goose** – reports of interest included 2 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 2 December (BL); a peak count of 17 at the Reformatory Lake 12 February (ph. MY, BY); and 8 at Flemingsburg 19 February (BW<sub>u</sub>).

**Brant** – 1 was reported at Long Point 3 January (†GH, SRo, DS, MR). KBRC review required.

**Tundra Swan** – the flock at Sauerheber numbered 105 by 19 December (TY) and peaked at 152 on 30 January (TY); also reported were 64 of the same flock at Horseshoe Road 16 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); 2 on Herrington Lake, *Boyle/Garrard*, 17 December (ph. DPe, KH); and 24 on Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 3-5 January (ph. RH), the last being quite unusual for the e. part of the state.

**Mute Swan** – hardly reported with the mild weather; 3 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 30 January (MBu) & 13 February (JBr) were presumed to be of non-local origin.

**Blue-winged Teal** – 2 were reported at Louisville 18 December (GH, DS); 5 were reported at Long Point 3 January (†GH, SRo, DS, MR).

**Gadwall** – peak counts included more than 3000 along the Mississippi River floodplain *Carlisle/Fulton/Hickman*, 13 February (PHa) and 975 at Ballard WMA 13 February (PHa).

**American Wigeon** – 300 at Ballard WMA 13 February (PHa) represented the season's peak count.

**Northern Shoveler** – modest peak counts included 250 at Sauerheber 18 January (TY) with 500 there 13 February (TY).

**Northern Pintail** – local peak counts included 1800 along the Mississippi River floodplain, *Carlisle/Fulton/Hickman*, 3 January (PHa) with 4120 in the same areas 30 January (PHa) and 15,000 in the same areas and 900 at Boatwright WMA, all 13 February (PHa); ca. 350 at Sloughs WMA, *Henderson/Union* 13 February (TY); possibly 500 at Horseshoe Road 16 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); and 93 at Jonathan Creek 28 February (HC).

**Green-winged Teal** – local peak counts included 600 at Boatwright WMA 18 January (PHa); ca. 50 on the Reformatory Lake 13 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>); ca. 450 at Sloughs WMA, *Henderson/Union*, 13 February (TY); 420 at Doug Travis WMA, *Hickman/Carlisle* 13 February (PHa); and a new record high state count of 10,850 tallied on a aerial survey along the Mississippi River floodplain *Carlisle/Fulton/Hickman* 13 February (PHa) with the most impressive tallies of 8700 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, and 1350 along the Obion Creek floodplain, *Fulton/Hickman* (PHa).

**Canvasback** – 40-50 on Lake Barkley above the dam 18 February (BP, EH<sub>u</sub>) represented a very modest peak count for the season.

**Redhead** – reports of interest included 60 at Flemingsburg 19 February (BW<sub>u</sub>) with 55 still there 23 February (BW<sub>u</sub>) and 40 there 26 February (BW<sub>u</sub>).

**Greater Scaup** – reports of interest included 1 on Barren 8 December (BP, EHu); and at least 200 in scattered groups on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 18 February (BP, EHu), although it is possible that most of 1500 scaup at great distance on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 18 February were Greater (BP, EHu).

**Lesser Scaup** – very modest peak counts included 2420 on Lake Barkley n. of US 68/KY 80, *Lyon/Trigg*, 18 January (PHa) and ca. 1500 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 18 February (BP, EHu).

**Ring-necked Duck** – peak counts included flocks of 2450 at Ballard WMA and 1200 at Boatwright WMA both 3 January (PHa); 3390 at Ballard WMA 18 January (PHa); 2570 at Ballard WMA and 1300 at Boatwright WMA, both 30 January (PHa); and 3600 at Boatwright WMA 13 February (PHa).

**White-winged Scoter** – there were two reports: at least 1 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam 7 December (RD) and 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 18 February (BP, EHu).

**Black Scoter** – there were two reports: 1 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam 7 December (RD) and 4 on Lake Cumberland off the SRP, *Russell*, 13 December (RD).

**Surf Scoter** – there were only two reports: “several groups of scoters in both the Ohio River [ne. KY] and Cave Run Lake, but male Surf Scoters were the only ones identifiable to species” 4 January (JBr) and 3 on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, 13 February (JBr).

**scoter sp.** – there were two additional reports of unidentified scoters: 2 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam 7 December (RD); and 6 on Cave Run Lake 19 January (JBr).

**Long-tailed Duck** – a male on Ky Lake above the dam 18 February (BP, EHu) was the only one reported.

**Common Goldeneye** – 315 were on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, by 11 December (HC et al.); ca. 150 on Lake Barkley above the dam and 750-1000 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*,

all 18 February (BP, EHu) represented the season’s peak counts.

**Common Merganser** – not numerous this winter with the mild weather; reports of interest included 3 on Lake Peewee 31 December (BP) with 4 there 17 February (BP, EHu); 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 6 January (JSo, EHu, BP); 12 at Jonathan Creek 19 January (HC); and 81 total on the Ohio River, ne. KY, including 21 on the Ohio River e. of Meldahl Dam, *Bracken*, all 13 February (JBr).

**Red-breasted Merganser** – 100 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 10 December (HC et al.) and at least 175 on Lake Barkley from the dam to Boyd’s Landing, *Lyon*, 18 February (BP, EHu) represented the season’s peak counts.

**Ruddy Duck** – 95 on Lake Peewee 13 December (CC) and at least 325 on Lake Barkley above the dam 18 February (EHu, BP) represented the season’s peak counts.

**Pied-billed Grebe** – ca. 50 on Lake Barkley above the dam 18 February (BP, EHu) represented the season’s peak count other than CBC tallies.

**Horned Grebe** – peak counts during the season included 105 on Green River Lake, *Taylor/Adair*, 28 December (EHu); 308 on Lake Cumberland at Rowena Road, *Russell*, 13 February (RD); and at least 375 on Lake Barkley from the dam to Boyd’s Landing, *Lyon*, 18 February (BP, EHu).

**Red-necked Grebe** – there was one report: 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 28 December (ph. EHu).

**American White Pelican** – the relatively mild weather resulted in above-average numbers remaining on Lake Barkley & Ky Lake through the season; notable tallies for mid-winter included 545 at Jonathan Creek 7 February (HC) and at least 300 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 18 February (BP, EHu).

**Great Egret** – there were four reports: 1 at Blood River 26 December (HC); 1 along the Ohio River shoreline, w. of Paducah, *McCracken*, 30 December (THi, JSm, JN); 1 on Ky Lake at Panorama Shores,

*Calloway*, 22 January (KC); and 1 at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 10 February (†DPr).

**Green Heron** – 1 at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 31 December (ph. SM, RB) was very unusual for the season.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – 2 at Ramsay Creek Bottoms near Creelsboro, *Russell*, 14 December (BS); 1 at The Narrows, Barren River Lake, *Barren*, 3 January (JSo); and 2 at the mouth of Pond Run e. of Worthington, *Greenup*, 19 January (JBr) were in areas where they have previously not been documented during winter. Also reported at locales where individuals have turned up previously during winter were 1 at Craig's Creek embayment near Warsaw, *Gallatin*, 17 December (LM); 1 at Lexington Reservoir #4 on 17 December (DSv); and a few at Draut Park, Louisville, through the season (BWo et al.).

**Black Vulture** – 225 along Cedar Creek Road, s. *Jefferson*, 11 January (SRO) was a local high count.

**Osprey** – an extraordinarily early migrant or wintering bird was seen flying over Ky Lake above the dam 18 February (BP, EHu).

**Bald Eagle** – a new nest was under construction along the Green River, sw. of Newman, *Daviess*, during early December (MBr).

**Red-tailed Hawk** – reports of western forms of interest included a juv. intermediate morph *B. j. calurus* along US 150 n. of Lebanon, *Washington*, 4 December (ph. BP, EHu); a juv. Krider's morph in s. *Logan* 12 December (FL et al.); a juv. Krider's morph along the Audubon Parkway, w. *Daviess*, during mid- to late February (JH, MBr, ph. BP, et al.); and both *B. j. harlani* that have wintered along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, since 2005-2006 were present 17 February (BP, EHu). A wing-tagged eastern bird from IL showed up again this winter at Louisville during mid-December (ph. MM).

**Golden Eagle** – there were seven reports: 1 s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 13/23 January (MBy, JBy) with 2 ads. there 28/29 Janu-



Krider's morph Red-tailed Hawk (juv.)  
*Daviess*, 17 February 2012  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

ary (MBy); at least 2 at Bernheim Forest during the season (KV, AB, et al.); singles photographed by remote trail cameras near Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, 15 January (ph. KDFWR, *fide* SF) and on Fishtap Lake WMA, *Pike*, 28/30 January (ph. KDFWR, *fide* SF); and a juv. found dead (likely due to collision with a powerline) at Turners Station, *Carroll*, 4 February (DW, ph. HM).



Golden Eagle, *Rowan*  
15 January 2012  
Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources

**Rough-legged Hawk** – relatively scarce this winter with only four reports: 1 on a reclaimed surface mine in *Bell* 12 January (ph. JBr) was likely a county first; 1 over Minor Clark 11 February (BWu et al.); 1 at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, 17

February (EHu, BP); and 1 near Berea, *Madison*, 20 February (PHg, JH).

**Merlin** – there were at least twelve reports: 2 along Bethany Road near Union Mills, *Jessamine*, 17 December (†TK; 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 18 December (RL, TA, et al.); 1 along Waldrige Road, *Nelson*, 19 December (ph. EHu); 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 21 December (AN); 1 sw. of Olmstead, *Logan*, 31 December (MA, GH); 2 at Spindletop 3 January (JSw, DL); 1 at Chaney Lake, *Warren*, 11 January (TD); 1 at Sinclair WMA 19 January (ET); 1 at Cox's Park, Louisville, 24 January (DS, JSt) and 13/15 February (ph. EHu); 1 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 2 February (BP et al); 1 along US 41 just n. of Henderson, *Henderson*, 9 February (MT); and 1 or 2 individuals ne. of Black Gnat, se. *Taylor*, 18/25 February (JSO).

**Peregrine Falcon** – individuals seen during the past few winters on the US 68/KY80 bridges over Lake Barkley and Ky Lake were present again this season, but seen only irregularly during the period (BL); other reports of non-breeding birds included 1 at the Louisville airport 15 December (MC) with 1 nearby at the Louisville landfill 17 January (RA) and at Melco 15 February (EHu); 1 s. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, 23 January (ph. EHu); 2 at Spindletop 9 February (DL) with 1 still there 17 February (DL, JSO); and 1 over I-65 near Clermont, *Bullitt*, 11 February (EHu, MY).

**Virginia Rail** – there were two reports: 1 heard at Pumpphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 22 October, 13 November, 3 December, 4/24 January & 18 February (RD et al.) establishing wintering at a new locale, and 1 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 1 January (BP).

**Sandhill Crane** – mild weather resulted in many birds lingering in Indiana well into the winter and sizable flocks continued to filter s. through Kentucky into early January. Up to ca. 1500 were at Barren during early December, but flocks became scattered during the hunting season, making counts difficult (WT); additional rep-

resentative counts at Barren during the hunting season included 467 on 20 December (WT); 1202 on 4 January (WT); and 2351 on 9 January (WT). Circa 1000-1200 were w. of Cecilia 17 December (BP), but there, too, flocks were scattered and numbers quite low during the hunting season other than 5 January, when 1700 were counted (EHa) [e.g. only 12 birds in area 9 January (EHa)]. Birds began moving north during mid-January and largely bypassed Barren (*vide* WT) with an early peak count of 4605 there 19 January (WT), but only 2115 there 23 January (WT); 630 there 31 January (WT); and 330 there 6 February (WT). In w. *Hardin* w. of Cecilia, the following counts of primarily northbound birds were made: 287 on 18 January (EHa); 2750 on 23 January (EHa); 4000-5000 on 2 February (BP, PB, JBe, CB); 3555 on 6 February (EHa); 3892 on 13 February (EHa); and 3160 on 20 February (EHa). Other reports of interest included 330 in *Larue* 18 January (EHa); at least 1100 in several flocks over Marrowbone WMA, *Metcalfe*, 7 February (BP); flocks of 53 over West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 31 December (SRe) and ca. 100 over LBL, *Trigg*, 8 January (CS et al.) that were relatively far west; and 17 over Minor Clark 2 January (GR) that were the farthest east.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – 1 at Sauerheber 24 December (ph. CC) was tardy; 3 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 26 February (MY, BY) were the earliest returning birds to be reported.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – 4 at Sauerheber 19 December (ph. CC) were tardy; 3 at Sauerheber 16 February (BP, EHu) were the earliest returning birds to be reported.

**Least Sandpiper** – 3 were at Blood River 26 December (HC) with 15 there 21 January (HC) and 14 there 1/17 February (HC). Four at Sauerheber 16 February (BP, EHu); 2 along J.C. Jones Road, *Hart*, 18 February (JSO); and 3 at Jonathan Creek 28 February (HC) may have been early migrants.

**Dunlin** – 1 was still at Sauerheber 3 December (BL) and 2 at Sauerheber 16 February



(BP, EHu) may have been wintering or very early returning birds.

**Wilson's Snipe** – modest peak counts included at least 60 at Sauerheber 9 December (BP, JD) with at least 101 there 16 February (BP, EHu), and 68 along J.C. Jones Road, *Hart*, 18 February (JSo).

**American Woodcock** – birds were reported on six CBCs; other reports of interest included 4 along W. Old State Road, *Allen*, 31 December (JBy) and 1 in *Greenup* 13 January (*vide* SF).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – representative peak counts included at least 500 at Barren 8 December (BP, EHu); 1450 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 17 December (HC, ME); ca. 2000 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 18 February (BP, EHu); and 400 at Jonathan Creek 20 February (HC).

**Ring-billed Gull** – peak counts of interest included probably in excess of 1500 at Barren 8 December (BP, EHu); ca. 500 at the Falls of the Ohio 24 January (T&CB); and at least 1500 at Cave Run Lake 22 February (BWu).

**Herring Gull** – modest peak counts included 50-75 at Ky Dam 9 December (BP, JD) with at least 100 there 18 February (EHu, BP).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – there were only two reports: a second-year bird at Barkley Dam 17 December (BL) and a second-year bird and an ad. at Ky Dam Village SRP 18 February (BP, EHu).



Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Marshall*  
18 February 2012  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**Forster's Tern** – 75 were still at Jonathan Creek 1 December (ME) with 9 there 19 January (HC), 26 there 24 January (HC) and up to 21 there thru the end of February (HC); 18 were at Blood River 19 December (HC) with 12 still there 28 December (HC) and 8 remaining into mid-February (HC).

**Barn Owl** – a pair was present throughout the season sw. of Bloomfield, *Nelson* (THe).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – the only report was of 1 at the Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 12 February (RD).

**Short-eared Owl** – not as numerous as during winter 2010-2011, but there were at least six reports: 1 sw. of Horntown, e. *Grayson*, 9 December (SK, JK) with up to 3 there during February (SK et al.); 1 along KY 1282 e. of Ledford, *Fulton*, 17 December (MT); 1 on the Road Creek Mine, *Pike*, 9/20 January (ph. SF) that was a county first; 1 ca. 1.5 mi. s. of Schochoh, *Logan*, 27 January (STy); up to 9 at Sinclair WMA 7 February into March with the peak count observed 25 February (P&SF et al.); and 1 at the Wendell Ford Training Site, *Muhlenberg*, 28 February (JSo).



Long-eared Owls, *Muhlenberg*  
6 February 2012  
Eric Williams

**Long-eared Owl** – there were three reports: 1 during early December at Big Clifty, w. *Hardin* (ph. BH); 1 found dead along KY 176 w. of Paradise, *Muhlenberg*, 1 Jan-

uary (T&CB); and a roost of up to 6 birds was located at Sinclair WMA 6 February into March (MH, ph. EW, et al.).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – all six birds continued into the winter season with the following observations: an ad. female lingered w. of Ashland, *Boyd*, to 11 December (S&SS); an imm. female lingered near Dot, *Logan*, to 31 December (FL); an imm. female lingered near Science Hill, *Pulaski*, to 14 January (SH); an imm. female and an ad. female in the same yard s. of Haywood, *Barren*, continued into March (ph. R&LY et al.); and an imm. female lingered at Franklin, *Simpson*, into March (STr).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** – the species was present in relatively good numbers in parts of w. Kentucky, specifically in LBL (BL) and at Ballard WMA (BP).

**White-eyed Vireo** – 1 was seen at Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*, 18 December (ph. BP, PB, CB).

**Fish Crow** – 1 at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 23 February (HC) was the earliest to be reported.

**Tree Swallow** – ca. 20 at Lake Vega, Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 25 February (SS) and 3 at Minor Clark 28 February (KO) were the earliest to be reported.

**Barn Swallow** – 1 was present at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 18 December (DB, ph. DR).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – generally present in well below-average numbers during the season with 1-2 reported on only five CBCs.

**House Wren** – there were two reports: 1 at the Kendall Recreation Area, *Russell*, 13 December (RD); and 1 along White Oak Road e. of Bunch, *Laurel*, 28 December (RD).

**Sedge Wren** – 1 was seen along Pondsville-Kepler Road, ne. *Warren*, 19 January (AH).

**Gray Catbird** – there were surprisingly at least five individuals reported: 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*, 13/18 December (ph. BP); 1 heard at E.P. Tom Sawyer SP,

*Jefferson*, 18 December (WC, BFu); 1 on the Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 18 December (JBe); 1 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 18 December–23 February (DR, DB, BFe); and 1 at Cedar Grove, *Bullitt*, 26 December (BWo).

**American Pipit** – not particularly numerous considering the mild weather with 1-131 reported on eight CBCs; also reported were 125+ at Minor Clark 11 February (BWu et al.).

**Cedar Waxwing** – generally below-average numbers were present through the early winter season with 1-157 reported on 19 CBCs; larger flocks began showing up during mid-February including 100-120 at Ky Dam 18 February (BP, EHu) and 200 at Glasgow, *Barren*, 20 February (LC).

**Lapland Longspur** – in general not very numerous nor widespread this winter with reports from four CBCs as follows: 30 at Bowling Green, *Warren*, 18 December (*fide* BFe); 410 in sw. *Daviess* 1 January (*fide* JH); 5 in *Ballard* 2 January (BP, EHu); and 42 in *Logan* 31 December (*fide* MBt); also reported were 24 w. of Cecilia 31 December (BP) with 2 there 4 February (GH, DS); and 20 along the Purchase Parkway n. of Water Valley, *Hickman*, 26 February (AC).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – there were two reports: 1 coming to feeders in a yard at Union, *Boone*, from early January into late February (ph. TS) and 1 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 6 February (DB).

**Common Yellowthroat** – 1 near Mark, *Pulaski*, 31 December (†SM, RB) was quite unusual for winter.

**American Redstart** – a female/imm. was observed just s. of Red Hill, *Allen*, 4-8 January (†WGi, HG, †JBy, TB, JM, JBk).

**Palm Warbler** – not particularly numerous again with winter with 2-3 reported on four CBCs; also reported were 2 w. of Cecilia 17 December (BP); 1 in *Larue* 19 December (LA *fide* BWo); 1-2 near Red Hill, *Allen*, 6 January through February (WGi); 1 along Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 11 January (JBy, MBy); 1 along Pondsville-Kepler Road, ne. *Warren*, 19



Ferruginous Hawk, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport, Boone Co.

Above: Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. on 9 April 2012. Below: Allan Claybon on 5 April 2012





Ferruginous Hawk, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport, Boone Co.  
Above: Andy Newman on 4 April 2012. Below: Eddie Huber on 4 April 2012



January (AH); and 1 along Mt. Zion Loop Road, *Pulaski*, 17 February (RD). In addition, unprecedented for winter were at least 16 at Jacobson Park 31 December (ph./†JPu).

**Pine Warbler** – single birds were reported on five CBCs; also reported were singles at Jacobson Park 31 December (JPu) and in the vicinity of Gray's Arch, Red River Gorge, DBNF, *Powell*, 6 January (RF, RB). Probably the earliest spring arrivals were singles at LBL, *Trigg*, 4 February (BL) and 20 February (AY), and 2 at Blood River 17 February (HC).

**American Tree Sparrow** – not particularly numerous this year, probably the result of the mild weather; only 1-32 were reported on ten CBCs; peak count was for 50 along Old Evansville-Henderson Rd., *Henderson*, 16 January (KMj).

**Chipping Sparrow** – not quite as numerous this winter with 1-19 reported on 13 CBCs; other reports of interest included 25-30 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 16 December (BWo) and 2 near Cadiz, *Trigg*, 14-15 January (WGr).

**Vesper Sparrow** – there were two reports of this very rare winter species: 2 wsw. of Rossington, *McCracken*, 30 December (†KMc) and ca. 10 in a field s. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 15 January with at least 3 there the following day (†BL).

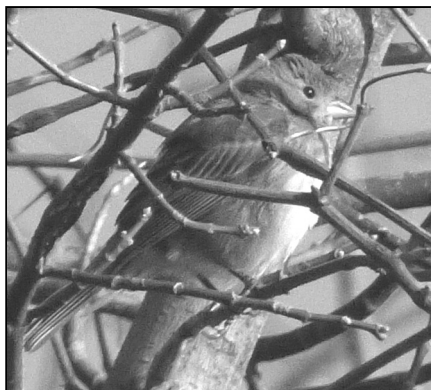
**Le Conte's Sparrow** – there were two reports: 2 on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 1 January (BP); and at least 2 along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, 17 February (ph. BP, EHu).

**Harris's Sparrow** – an ad. was present just e. of Blue Spring, *Trigg*, 19 December (ph. CH et al.)–23 February (MS). KBRC review required.

**Fox Sparrow** – far fewer were present this winter than during winter 2010-2011 with 1-18 reported on 20 CBCs.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – there were three reports: 1 below Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, 17 December (†BL, PL); 1 in LBL near Birmingham Ferry Landing, *Lyon*, 18 January (†BL); and 1 at John C. Williams WMA, *Nelson*, 21 January (†BFR).

**Indigo Bunting** – there were two reports: 1 along Burbank Road, w. *Henderson*, 17 December (ph. CC); and 1 s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 24 December (†MBY).



Indigo Bunting, *Henderson*  
17 December 2011  
Charlie Crawford

**Western Meadowlark** – there were two reports: 1 near Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, on 10 December (†BP, JD); and 1 near Needmore, *Ballard*, 2 January (†BP, EHu).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – there were four reports: 20 along Royal-Oak Grove Road, e. *Grayson*, 18 December (SK et al.) but not subsequently; 17 on the Hodgenville CBC 23 December (*vide* BWo); at least 4 with other blackbirds along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, 31 December (BP); and 2 e. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 2 January (BP, EHu).

**Rusty Blackbird** – reports of interest included ca. 250 along J.C. Wilson Road, *Hart*, 11 December (SK, JK, BB, CF) with ca. 500 reported there 18 February (JSO); several flocks totaling 530 birds in *Hart* 17 December (SK, JK); at least 50 e. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 2 January (BP, EHu); ca. 300 at the LBL Nature Station 8-9 January (AY, JPo, et al.); 200+ w. of Cecilia 2 February (BP et al.) with 620 in w. *Hardin* (mostly w. of Cecilia) including a flock of ca. 500 on 5 February (MA, GH); and up to 225 at Jenny Hole/Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, during February (CC).

**Purple Finch** – generally present in below-average numbers this winter with only a few exceptions; 1-24 reported on 13



CBCs; other modest peak counts included up to 13 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, during February (BL, PL) and 20 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 25 January (MBu).

**Common Redpoll** – a female was present at a feeding station at Independence, *Kenton*, 12 February (ph. RC). KBRC review required.

**Pine Siskin** – the species was particularly scarce this winter with only a few notable reports: a flock of up to 40 was present at the LBL administrative office, *Trigg*, 29 November through the period (BL); 1 adjacent to West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 30 December (KMc); up to 8 near Deatsville, *Nelson*, from early December–19 January (ph. DM); and up to 8 near Riders Mill, *Hart*, during the season (ph. BA).

**Observers:** Tom Ackerson (TA), Ryan Ankeny (RA), Lyn Atherton (LA), Michael Autin (MA), Bonnie Avery (BA), Bruce Bardin (BB), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Tom & Colleen Becker (T&CB), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MBt), Andrew Berry (AB), Carol Besse (CB), David Brown (DB), Mike Brown (MBR), John David Brubaker (JBk), Timothy Brubaker (TB), John Brunjes (JBr), Rhonda Bryant (RB), Marissa Buschow (MBu), Michael Callan (MC), Hap Chambers (HC), Allen Chartier (AC), Kathy Cohen (KC), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Rodney Crice (RC), Wes Cunningham (WC), Roseanna Denton (RD), Jon Dunn (JD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Blaine Ferrell (BFe), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Robert Foster (RF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Carol Friedman (CF), Bill Friel (BFr), Brehan Furfey (BFu), Wilbur Gingerich (WGi), Herman Gingerich (HG), Willard Gray (WGr), Joy Hager (JH), Paul Hager (PHg), Pat Hahs (PHa), Rusty Hamilton (RH), Erin Harper (EHa), Ben Hart (BH), Curt Hart (CH), Gerald Heath (GH), Todd Hendricks (THE), Mark Herse (MH), Kate Heyden (KH), Trevor Hinckley (THi), Janet Howard (JH), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JH), Susan Huffman (SH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Terri Koontz (TK), Rob Lane (RL), David Lang (DL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Paula Lisowsky (PL), Frank Lyne (FL), Dax Manley (DM), Scott Marsh (SM), Jerome Martin (JM), Herman Mays (HM), Kelly McKay (KMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Keith Michalski (KMi), Melanie Minter (MM), Andy Newman (AN), Joan Norek (JN), Ken Ostermiller (KO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Don Pelly (DPe), Gary Pogue (GP), John Pollpeter (JPo), Dave Pritchard (DPr), Rocky Pritchert (RP), Joe Pulliam (JPu), Scott Record (SRe), John Rice (JR), Mike Riggs (MR), Gerald Robe (GR), David Roemer (DR), Steve Rogers (SRo), Mary Schmidt (MS), Sabrina Shrader-McOwen (SS), Jeff Smith (JSm), Jeff Sole (JSO), Barbara Stedman (BS), Tommy Stephens (TS), David Stewart (DS), Jack Still (JSt), David Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Steve & Sharon Sweeney (S&SS), Carrie Szwed (CS), Wayne Tamminga (WT), Evan Tanner (ET), Mike Todd (MT), Shannon Trimboli (STr), Steve Tyson (STy), Kelly Vowels (KV), Darry Whitsett (DW), Eric Williams (EW), Barbara Woerner (BW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Ruth & Lew Young (R&LY), Thomas Young (TY).

**K.O.S. SPRING 2012 MEETING**  
**Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park**  
**April 27-April 29, 2012**

Blaine R. Ferrell

Registration for the spring 2012 Society meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 April at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park Conference Center. Vice-President Steve Kistler called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Carol Besse shared the fact that long-time member and past Society President, Ginny Kingsolver, was recovering from an illness and asked members to sign two cards wishing her a speedy recovery.

The two speakers for the evening program were students from Eastern Kentucky University. The first speaker, Ryan O'Connor, presented an informative paper about the breeding biology of Chuck-will's-widows and their nesting success and nest-site selection. His study was conducted on the 15,000 acre Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve located in Adams County, Ohio.

The Second speaker, Sabrina McOwen, presented a paper on the use of auditory stimuli by Carolina Chickadees to recognize and inform conspecifics about predators. It appears that Carolina Chickadees do not vary their calls based on auditory stimuli from various predators alone compared with visual stimuli of predators.

Vice-President Steve Kistler then presented slides of birds to the members as part of a Kentucky Bird Quiz. He then described to the audience details of field trips planned for Saturday morning. Trips included one to Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, led by Hap Chambers and Steve Kistler, a trip to the dams and overlooks, led by Lee McNeely, a trip around Kentucky Lake Drive in the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area led by Pat & Jane Bell, and a walk around the Kentucky Dam Village lodge area, led by Dr. Bryan Watts. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and was followed by a social hour in the lobby.

Field trips left the lodge at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Board met in Room A of the Conference Center in the afternoon. The Board meeting was called to order by Carol Besse at 2:00 p.m. and adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The Kentucky Bird Records Committee then met at 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday evening business meeting was held in Conference Center Room A. Carol Besse called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and began the meeting by reminding everyone to sign the cards for Ginny Kingsolver. She also reminded the audience about the silent auction to follow the business meeting. Dona Coates, who organized the silent auction, described how it would work. Carol informed the members that KOS would like to distribute copies of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* to appropriate organizations with an interest. If anyone wanted to distribute them to non-profit and educational organizations they could get copies from her. She then thanked Steve Kistler, Vice-President, for all his work planning the meeting. She informed the members about the new KOS brochure that Mary and Ben Yandell designed and sponsored. Carol then mentioned the Nominating Committee composed of Steve Kistler (Chair), Scott Marsh, and Mark Bennett and requested members to submit potential nominees for two Councillor positions to them. Carol told the members about the Flickr web page that was available to view and post bird pictures on the internet. She also mentioned the KOS Facebook page that Mark Bennett constructed. Mark requested that members review the page and offer suggestions. Members were also made aware that they could save paper by requesting an electronic version of *The Kentucky Warbler* in pdf format.

Steve Kistler announced the field trips for Sunday morning. Carol Besse would lead a trip into the Land Between the Lakes, Lee McNeely would lead a trip around the lodge area, and Ben Yandell would lead a trip to the dams.

Blaine Ferrell compiled the list of birds observed during Friday and Saturday field trips. There was a total of 136 species observed. Highlights included a relatively good variety of warblers and other passerine migrants.

Carol Besse then introduced Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, as the guest speaker. Dr. Watts' talk covered his work on satellite radio tracking of Whimbrels as they migrate spectacular distances between wintering grounds in the Caribbean and South America to breeding grounds in Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories. One migratory bird traveled nonstop for 3200 miles from the Delmarva Peninsula on the east coast of the United States to Alaska. Other Whimbrels they have tracked have survived flights through Category 3 hurricanes. It appears that Whimbrels faithfully use the same locations as stop-

over, breeding, and wintering spots year after year, and the actual area each bird resides in is relatively small. Whimbrels have declined in population by 50% since the mid-1990's at a rate of approximately 4% per year. Dr. Watts and his organization have been working with local conservation groups and governments to try to end the hunting of shorebirds in the Caribbean and South America, where over 100,000 to 200,000 birds are taken annually. He is also studying how habitat changes in the birds' breeding grounds may be responsible for the decline. Following several questions, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The silent auction followed immediately.

Sunday field trips departed from the lodge at 8:00 a.m. Two species were added to the Saturday evening list. Attendance at the meeting included 50 members and one guest.

#### **Attendance at the Spring 2012 K.O.S. Meeting**

Bagdad:	Horace Brown
Bowling Green:	Blaine Ferrell
Burlington:	Lee McNeely
Cadiz:	Willard Gray
Cox's Creek:	Dona & Roger Coates
Danville:	Ginny & Neil Eklund
Eddyville:	Betty Leggett
Frankfort:	Kay Harker, Gary Sprandel
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger
Independence:	Donnie Martin
Lawrenceburg:	Terry Anderson
Lexington:	Rhonda Bryant, Scott Marsh, Sabrina McOwen
Louisville:	Bonnie Avery, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Bonnie & Robert Dever, Steve Deetsch, Katharine Fulkerson, Katherine Griswold, Eddie Huber, Ben & Mary Yandell
Morehead:	Fred, Joanna, & Katie Busroe
Munfordville:	Janet & Steve Kistler
Murray:	Hap Chambers, Kathy & Mike Cohen, Bonnie & Sam McNeely
Owensboro:	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Prospect:	Win Ahrens, Carol & Paul McAllister
Richmond:	Ryan O'Connor
Russellville:	Andrea & Mark Bennett
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Somerset:	Linda McClendon
Indianapolis, IN:	Larry Peavler
Stafford, England:	Frank Gribble

#### **Birds Observed at the Spring 2012 Meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park and Vicinity April 27 through April 29**

The following bird species were observed during the meeting: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck (S), Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon,



Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler (S), Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The total number of species was 138, including the two species observed Sunday (S).

## FIELD NOTE

### Ferruginous Hawk in Boone County

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) southwest of Constance in northeastern Boone County has an Airplane Viewing Area that can be accessed from KY 236 (Donaldson Highway). The Viewing Area sits on the eastern side of the airfield and offers an exceptional vantage point from which to scan the area. Crice has looked for birds, primarily raptors, from the spot for several years. On a day during mid-March 2012 that he did not record in his notes, he was at the Viewing Area when he noticed a large, pale *Buteo* that looked odd for an immature Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). He subsequently saw this bird nearly every day for a week or more. He knew it was different, but didn't know what it was. At the time, it usually flew low to the ground whereas most Red-tailed Hawks seemed to fly much higher. Additionally, it would hover frequently, almost like a Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and then dive down to the ground. However, the hawk was too big for a harrier and didn't have the markings of any Red-tailed that he was familiar with.

Crice eventually was able to obtain some photographs of the bird 29 March 2012 and posted them on the Ohio Birding Facebook page during the last couple of days of March. The Ohio Birding Facebook page is a great resource where experts mix with birding beginners to share thoughts, photos, tips, etc. The pictures of his mystery hawk immediately generated quite a stir. Opinions as to the bird's identity were all over the map and included light-morph Red-tailed Hawk; Krider's morph Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), some sort of hybrid, and others. Several among those who commented, most notably Michigan raptor specialist, Jeff Schultz, believed that the photographs clearly demonstrated that the bird was a juvenile Ferruginous Hawk, and some were planning trips to the airfield to see if they might solve the mystery. Others who supported the assessment of the bird's identity to be Ferruginous Hawk with

comments in the thread included Dave Clark, Paul Hurtado, Kathi Hutton, Kenn Kaufman, Jeff Loughman, and Ben Warner.

When it appeared that a majority of knowledgeable individuals were thinking the bird was a Ferruginous Hawk, Crice emailed a link to the photos to a few Kentucky birders, and Paul Hurtado forwarded an internet link to the photos to the BIRDKY listserv. Monroe was among the first Kentucky birders to review the photos 2 April 2012. Similar to the assessment by others knowledgeable about raptors, he did not believe the bird was a Red-tailed Hawk and several characters were strongly suggestive of Ferruginous Hawk. Upon hearing about the bird, Monroe, Eddie Huber, Mary Yandell, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, headed to CVG that afternoon.

After scanning the area for nearly an hour without any luck, Crice arrived on the scene and immediately spotted the bird sitting on the ground several hundred meters to the west-northwest. By that time several other birders were on the scene, and all eventually got good looks at characters that confirmed the bird's identity on site as a juvenile Ferruginous Hawk.

A summary of characters observed that afternoon follows (see photos pp. 41, 50, 51). The hawk was extremely pale underneath, being completely white below the eye on the face, as well as on the throat and breast, with only a few dark spots present on the belly and some dark barring on the flanks (most visible when wings were raised or in flight) and on the upper legs. Characteristic of the species, the legs were feathered down to the base of the foot, the feathers of this region appearing light brown. The beak was very large with gape extending to below the eye and had an obvious yellow cere. Dark stripes ran from the back of the beak through the eyes and onto the sides of the neck. A partial pale supercilium and hindneck set off a darker crown, giving a 'capped' appearance at certain angles. The back was chocolatey brown with a slight hint of rufous in the scapular region at some angles and a limited amount of white on the upper wing coverts.

In flight, most of about seven inner primary feathers were whitish, forming an obvious pale patch on the outer part of the upper side of the wings. The undersides of the wings were very white with only a dark carpal crescent, some light markings on the patagial areas, and a few dark spots on the underwing coverts. The tail of the bird was relatively long, mostly white at the base, and dark on the outer half with some dark bars running laterally across some feathers giving a 'white-rumped' appearance. The upper tail coverts were whitish and marked with obvious dark spots. When in flight the Ferruginous Hawk was obviously different structurally from a Red-tailed Hawk with longer, more tapered wings and a buoyant flight, almost reminiscent of a Northern Harrier. When the bird interacted with Red-tailed Hawks it was noticeably larger (perhaps 20%), particularly in wing length. At rest the primaries extended nearly to the tips of the rectrices.

In following days, several dozen birders from the region were able to view the Ferruginous Hawk as it worked back and forth across and adjacent to the airfield in the company of as many as a dozen Red-tailed Hawks, mostly juveniles. It was last knowingly reported there 12 May 2012 by several birders including Brian Wulker. Subsequent to the confirmation of the bird's identity, it was related by Cincinnati birder, Kathi Hutton, that Cindy Rogers, who works at a cargo facility at CVG, had seen the bird on the airfield as early as late January 2012 and wondered what it was. Moreover, after the fact, Cincinnati birder, William Hull, posted to the Cincinnati Bird Club message board that he felt certain that he saw the hawk at the airport 27 January 2012 while looking out the window of a departing flight.

This represents the first confirmed record of Ferruginous Hawk in Kentucky and one of the farthest east reports ever documented; Wheeler (2003) shows only a few reports from Michigan and Ontario that are farther east than Boone County. There are two sight reports for Kentucky that have been considered hypothetical (Palmer-Ball 2003). The bird showed no signs of having been in captivity, and dialog with several individuals knowledgeable

about the likelihood of the bird having originated from falconry or rehabilitation activities suggested that an unnatural origin was highly unlikely (J. Schultz/J. Hays, pers. comm.). The authors acknowledge the participation by various individuals cited above who commented concerning the hawk's identity on the Ohio Birding Facebook page and the Cincinnati birding message board.

#### Literature Cited

- Palmer-Ball, B.L., Jr. 2003. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*. Kentucky Ornithological Society. Louisville, KY. 189 pp.
- Wheeler, B.K. 2003. *Raptors of eastern North America*. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ. 439 pp.
- Rodney Crice**, 5105 Woodale Court, Independence, KY, 41051, and **Mark Monroe**, 1114 Silvercrest Lane, Louisville, KY, 40223.

#### BOOK REVIEW

***How to Be a Better Birder* by Derek Lovitch.** While seemingly intended for intermediate birders, Derek Lovitch's book *How to Be a Better Birder* should be a useful resource for any birder with the desire to move to the next birding skill level. Throughout the book Lovitch emphasizes his idea of the "Whole Bird and More" approach when making an ID. He stresses the need to look at everything about the bird, including behavior, food, song, plants and trees in the area, etc., rather than relying solely on the classic guide field mark system. *How to Be a Better Birder* focuses on three advanced birding "tools" of habitat, geography and weather (including NEXRAD Doppler radar) and shows how this knowledge, when put to use in the field, increases the possibility of finding target birds as well as rarities. Readers will find in this informative, easy-to-read book helpful references to current guides, websites, birding hotspots (what makes them so), tips from top birding experts, and more.—Mary Yandell, 513 Lymington Court, Louisville, KY, 40243.

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

##### Visit the K.O.S. Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website maintained by Dr. Gary Ritchison at <http://www.biology.uky.edu/kos/default.htm>.

##### K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at ([scott.marsh@insightbb.com](mailto:scott.marsh@insightbb.com)).

##### K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.biology.uky.edu/kos/monroe.htm>) or contact Shawchyi Vorisek, Chair of the Burt Monroe Fund Committee, at Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 ([shawchyi.vorisek@ky.gov](mailto:shawchyi.vorisek@ky.gov)).

### Kentucky Bird Records Committee

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is charged with determining the validity of records of rare and out-of-season birds in Kentucky. Sightings of such birds should be documented with information supporting the identification promptly submitted to the KBRC. Photographic evidence is desirable but not essential. Electronic documentation is preferred and should be submitted to KBRC Secretary, Ben Yandell, via e-mail at [secy@kybirdrecords.org](mailto:secy@kybirdrecords.org). Hard copy documentation should be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243.

### *The Kentucky Warbler Available in PDF Format*

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive their quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now do so. In the new and here-to-stay digital age, we have found that some members prefer to have a searchable electronic format. The board of the Kentucky Ornithological Society has discussed the eventual scanning of all back issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* to PDF format and making them available on the internet, but that project may be a few years away. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at the following address: [brainard@mindspring.com](mailto:brainard@mindspring.com).



Leucistic Pied-billed Grebe, Lexington  
1 December 2011  
Lou Shain



Green Heron, *Pulaski*  
31 December 2011  
Rhonda Bryant



Rufous Hummingbirds, *Barren*  
12 February 2012  
Ruth Young



Long-eared Owl, *Hardin*  
2 December 2011  
Ben Hart



White-eyed Vireo, *Jefferson*  
18 December 2011  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Harris's Sparrow, *Trigg*  
19 December 2011  
Curt Hart



Common Redpoll (female), *Kenton*  
12 February 2012  
Rodney Crice